

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PANAMA 04922 231557Z

61

ACTION IO-14

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R 222157Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1588

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ROME FOR FODAG

FROM USDEL FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: FAO, OCON, EAGR

SUBJ: THIRTEENTH FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR LATIN AMERICA:

OPENING OF POLICY STATE OF CONFERENCE

1. SUMMARY: POLICY STAGE OF FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE OPENED WITHOUT SURPRISES. ELECTIONS INCLUDED NAMING PANAMANIAN MINISTER AS CHAIRMAN, SEVEN OTHER MINISTERS AS VICE CHAIRMEN. OPENING STATEMENTS WERE GIVEN BY BOERMA (FAO), MAREI (WFC), AND OTHERS. SEVERAL NON-AGENDA ITEMS DISCUSSED. END SUMMARY

2. POLICY STAGE ELECTIONS: CHAIRMAN - G. GONZALEZ VERNAZA, MINISTER AGRICULTURE, PANAMA; VICE-CHAIRMAN - ALL OTHER MINISTERS PRESENT (ARGENTINA, COSTA RICA, GUYANA, HONDURAS, NICARAGUA, PARAGUAY, PERU); RAPPOREUR - L. MARTINEZ, UNDER SECRETARY AGRICULTURE, MEXICO; AND DRAFTING COMMITTEE (CHAIRMAN BY RAPPOREUR) - CHILE, CUBA, PERU, URUGUAY, AND VENEZUELA.

3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA: PROVISIONAL AGENDA WAS ADOPTED WITHOUT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 PANAMA 04922 231557Z

CHANGE EXCEPT ADDITION OF UNDP TO LIST OF INITIAL SPEAKERS.

4. DG STATEMENT: BOERMA (DIRGEN, FAO) PRESENTED FORCEFUL, WELL-RECEIVED STATEMENT COVERING MAJOR WORLD ISSUES INVOLVING FAO, INCLUDING MENTION OF UNGA DECLARATION ON ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER AND FAO'S PARTICIPATION IN PROGRAM OF ACTION'S ANTICIPATED EMERGENCY OPERATION ASSISTING MOST-SERIOUSLY AFFECTED COUNTRIES IN FIELDS OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE. BOERMA ALSO EMPHASIZED THAT SHORTAGES OF FERTILIZER AND PESTICIDES ARE MAJOR WORLD PROBLEM AND SPOKE AT SOME LENGTH ON INTERNATIONAL ACTIONS ON PROBLEM. HE ASKED FOR FULL LATIN AMERICAN PARTICIPATION IN WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE AND TALKED OF NEED FOR WORLD FOOD POLICY, INCLUDING INTER ALIA CONCEPT OF MINIMUM WORLD FOOD SECURITY AND INCREASED AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION IN LDC'S, WHICH HE CONSIDERED MOST IMPORTANT AND IN NEED MORE PRIORITY IN COUNTRY PROGRAMMING EXERCISE.

5. MAREI STATEMENT: MAREI (SYG, WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE) EMPHASIZED NEED FOR WFC TO FORMULATE PLANS OF ACTION TO SECURE FREEDOM FROM HUNGER FOR ALL MANKIND. HE OUTLINED STRATEGY OF WORLD FOOD POLICY OR INCREASING FOOD PRODUCTION IN LDC'S, IMPROVING CONSUMPTION AND NUTRITION, AND ENSURING WORLD FOOD SECURITY. MAREI SPOKE OF WORLD FOOD AUTHORITY ONLY IN PASSING AND AS ONE OF VARIOUS PROPOSALS LIKELY TO COME UP FOR DECISION AT WFC AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES CAN MOBILIZE COLLECTIVE POLITICAL WILL TO IMPLEMENT DECISIONS MADE AT WFC.

6. OTHER STATEMENTS WERE MADE BY INDEPENDENT CHAIRMAN OF FAO COUNCIL, BY EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS OF WORLD FOOD PROGRAM AND ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA, BY DEPUTY REGIONAL DIRECTOR OF UNDP, AND BY DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES. AQUINO (WFP) STATEMENT EMPHASIZED EFFECT OF HIGHER PRICES ON QUANTITIES OF FOOD AVAILABLE TO WFP PROGRAMS AND URGED INCREASED FOOD AID THROUGH MULTILATERAL CHANNELS. IGLESIAS' (ECLA) STATEMENT (READ IN ABSENTIA) GAVE NOT TOO GLOOMY ASSESSMENT OF CURRENT ECONOMIC SITUATION IN LA AND SEEMED CAUTIOUSLY OPTIMISTIC FOR FUTURE.

7. COMMENT: OPENING STATEMENTS WERE, ON THE WHOLE, THOUGHTFUL, WELL PREPARED, AND WELL RECEIVED, BUT WITHOUT SURPRISES. MAREI LACK OF ATTENTION TO WORLD FOOD AUTHORITY PROPOSAL MAY BE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 PANAMA 04922 231557Z

DUE ITS EMPHASIS BY AZIZ DURING TECHNICAL STAGE OF REGIONAL CONFERENCE.

8. NON-AGENDA ITEMS:

A. ARGENTINA AND MEXICO CONGRATULATED CUBA AND PANAMA ON THEIR RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS.

B. APPROPRIATE OF SITE OF NEXT REGIONAL CONFERENCE, PERU
HAS MOUNTED ACTIVE CAMPAIGN ON GROUNDS IT HAS NOT PREVIOUSLY
HOSTED ANY REGIONAL CONFERENCE AND APPEARS TO HAVE SUBSTANTIAL
EDGE OVER ARGENTINA.

C. REGARDING POSSIBLE SHIFT IN SITE OF FAO REGIONAL OFFICE,
WE INFORMED THAT DG TOOK FIRM STAND IN OPPOSITION
DURING MEETING WITH STAFF. ISSUE HAS NOT SURFACED ON FLOOR
OF CONFERENCE.

D. RUMORED THERE MAY BE EFFORT TO OBTAIN AGREEMENT
ON AQUINO AS SINGLE LA CANDIDATE FOR DG POST.
JORDEN

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